

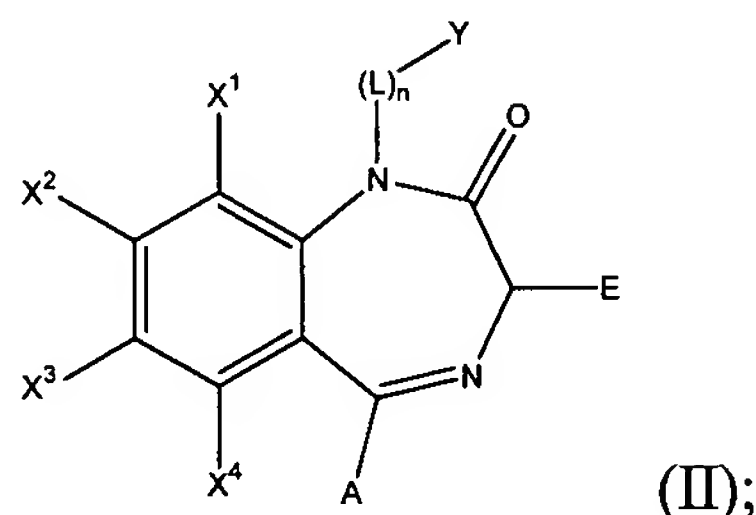
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in above-identified patent application as follows and as shown on the Claims Listing dated 3/8/2005 appended hereto.

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1-7, 11-42, and 44.

Please amend claims 8 and 43 as follows:

8. (currently amended) The A water-soluble reference standard ~~of claim 1, wherein~~
~~G-(L)_n-Y is a compound of formula (II)~~



wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, nitro, amino, and alkylamido;

-L- is an alkyl ~~or heteroalkyl~~ group containing from 1-20 carbon atoms;

-E is -H, alkyl, -OH, -COOH, or -COOR', where R' is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms; ~~and~~

A is an aryl group; n is 0 or 1; and Y is $-\text{SO}_3^-$, $-\text{NRSO}_3^-$, $-\text{PO}_3\text{H}$, or $-\text{OPO}_3\text{H}$, where R is selected from the group consisting of H and an alkyl group comprising 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

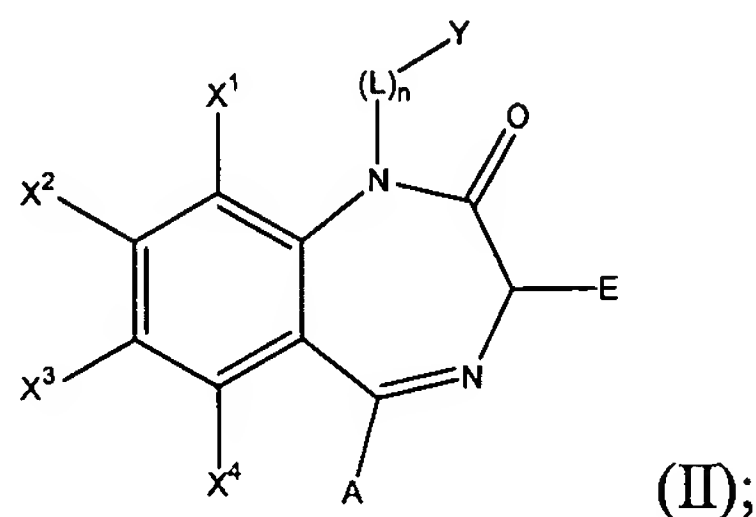
43. (currently amended) A reference standard kit, comprising the reference standard of claim 24 8.

CLAIMS LISTING 3/8/2005

What is claimed is:

1-7 (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) ~~The A water-soluble reference standard of claim 1, wherein $G-(L)_n-$~~
~~Y is a compound of formula (II)~~



wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, nitro, amino, and alkylamido;

-L- is an alkyl ~~or heteroalkyl~~ group containing from 1-20 carbon atoms;

-E is -H, alkyl, -OH, -COOH, or -COOR', where R' is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and

A is an aryl group; n is 0 or 1; and Y is $-\text{SO}_3^-$, $-\text{NRSO}_3^-$, $-\text{PO}_3\text{H}$, or $-\text{OPO}_3\text{H}$, where R is selected from the group consisting of H and an alkyl group comprising 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

9. (original) The water-soluble reference standard of claim 8, wherein

L is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$;

n is 1; and

Y is $-\text{NHSO}_3^-$.

CLAIMS LISTING 3/8/2005

10. (original) The water-soluble reference standard of claim 9, wherein

X^1 , X^2 , and X^4 are hydrogen;

X^3 is Cl; and

A is 2-fluorophenyl.

11-42 (cancelled)

43. (currently amended) A reference standard kit, comprising the reference standard of claim ~~24~~ 8.

44. (cancelled)